

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number  
41/49A

USGS Quad  
Boston N.

Area(s)  
Y

Form Number  
1108,1109



Town Lexington

Place (*neighborhood or village*) Fair Oaks

Address 75 Outlook Drive

Historic Name George & Effie Briggs House  
("Fair Oaks")

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1910

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder Willard Brown

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage (MHC #1109)

Major Alterations (*with dates*) date? - garage moved and  
turned, partial enclosure of sunporch

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 93,451 SF

Setting mixed early 20th century residential



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*) July 2000

## BUILDING FORM (75 Outlook Drive)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Constructed in 1910, the Briggs House (MHC #1108) is one of two noteworthy early houses constructed in the Fair Oaks development (the other being 341 Marrett Road). It was designed by architect Willard Brown and is one of his substantial Colonial Revival designs with a Craftsman style influence evident in the front pergola. The large 2 1/2-story, gambrel-roofed dwelling is sheathed in clapboards which are notable for their lack of cornerboards; the ends of the wood siding meet at the corners. The main house block measures 3 x 2 bays and is flanked on one side by a wing of similar height and two-bays wide, set back slightly with a single-story open porch or piazza spanning the other end.

On the main house block only there are projecting front eaves which are decorated by short rafters. The center entrance contains a six-panel door with the two upper panels filled with bullseye glass. The door is flanked by sidelights which are two panes side. Sheltering the entrance is a partially enclosed pergola supported by fluted columns. Fenestration consists of a mix of individual, paired and tripartite windows with a 6/1 or 8/1 configuration predominating. Pedimented dormers rise from the front roof slope.

The flat-roofed piazza is supported by Roman Doric columns. Continuous 6/1 windows have been installed along the front and rear elevations but the end has been left open. A Craftsman-style influence is evident in the gridded lattice panel between the columns and in the beamed ceiling inside. A small recessed porch at the opposite rear corner of the house displays an arched opening with a shingled corner post.

Adjacent to the house is a detached gambrel-roofed garage (MHC #1109) sheathed in clapboards. Historic photographs indicate that the garage has been moved closer to the house and turned. It now rests on a concrete foundation. There is a double-wide door opening on the gambrel front. Above the door in a quasi-Palladian type arrangement is an arched upper opening with a small three-light elevated window on either side.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.* (see 20 Meriam St, MHC #382).

This house was constructed in 1910 for George and Effie Briggs. Local assessors records indicate that in 1910 Briggs was assessed for only the lot, by the following year a \$18,000 house had been constructed on the 87,690 square foot lot. The house was designed by local architect Willard Brown and was one of the first houses constructed in the Fair Oaks subdivision. Briggs was the president of Lexington Lumber. The Briggs family continued to own the house until the early 1940s. Robert and Eleanora Halfman owned the property from 1953 to 1993 when it was sold to the present owners.

The Fair Oaks development was designed and managed by Arthur Horton, a landscape architect who worked for the Metropolitan Park Commission in Boston for ten years. Much of his work designing boulevards, parks and reservations was done under the direction of Charles Eliot (for more information see Area form Y, Fair Oaks).

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Assessors Records.  
Lexington Directories, various dates.  
Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
75 Outlook Drive  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

1108,1109



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE E. BRIGGS, OUTLOOK DRIVE, "FAIR OAKS"

Source: 1928 Lexington Directory

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community      Property Address

Lexington      75 Outlook Drive

Area(s)      Form No.

Y	1108,1109
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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible      ☐ Eligible only in a historic district  
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district      ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:      ☐ A      ☐ B      ☒ C      ☐ D

Criteria Considerations:      ☐ A      ☐ B      ☐ C      ☐ D      ☐ E      ☐ F      ☐ G

Statement of Significance by: Lisa Mausolf

*Justify criteria that are checked in the above sections:*

The George and Effie Briggs House at 75 Outlook Drive meets criterion C for individual listing on the National Register as an excellent example of an early 20th century Colonial Revival residence which also shows the influence of the Craftsman style. The house is also notable as the design of Willard Brown, a prominent Lexington architect. The house and associated carriage house display a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association